

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01810 102242Z  
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 DLOS-09 COME-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02  
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P 102233Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6978  
INFO AMCONSUL HALIFAX POUCH  
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER POUCH

UNCLAS OTTAWA 01810

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PBOR, EFIS, CA, US  
SUBJECT: MARITIME BOUNDARIES AND FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS

FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE APRIL 7 IN HOUSE OF COMMONS  
BETWEEN PC MP LLOYD CROUSE AND MINISTER OF FISHERIES  
LEBLANC:

"CROUSE: MR. SPEAKER, I WISH TO DIRECT MY QUESTION TO  
THE HON. MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT.  
WAS AN INTERIM FISHERIES AGREEMENT FOR 1978 ON THE  
CANADA-UNITED STATES BOUNDARY DISPUTE CONCERNING THE  
OWNERSHIP OF GEORGES BANK RECOMMENDED TO THE MINISTER  
BY HIS ADVISERS, OR DID THEY RECOMMEND THAT CANADA  
SHOULD TAKE A FIRM STAND AND DECLARE THE LOCATION OF  
THE LINE ON GEORGES BANK? IF SO, WHERE DID THE HON.  
MINISTER PROPOSE THAT THE LINE ON GEORGES BANK SHOULD  
BE DRAWN?

"I AM SURE THE MINISTER KNOWS THAT THIS QUESTION IS OF  
VITAL IMPORTANCE TO FISHERMEN ON THE EAST COAST OF  
ATLANTIC CANADA, SINCE THE OWNERSHIP OF THE PROLIFIC  
AND PROFITABLE GEORGES BANK SCALLOP FISH IS OBVIOUSLY  
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AN ISSUE. HAS THIS DISCUSSION BOGGED DOWN ON THE PROBLEM  
RELATING TO MINERALS, OR HAS IT BOGGED DOWN ON THE PROBLEM  
RELATING TO THE FISHERY RESOURCES ON THE BANK?

"MIN. LEBLANC: MR. SPEAKER, THE SPECIAL NEGOTIATORS  
WHO TRIED TO NARROW DOWN THE DIFFERENCES OVER MANY  
WEEKS FELT THEY WERE CLOSE TO AGREEMENT. BECAUSE THEY

COULD NOT ARRIVE AT A FINAL AGREEMENT, THEY FELT THEY SHOULD NOT REGISTER FAILURE BUT, IN FACT, THEY SHOULD RECESS AND GIVE EACH SIDE TIME TO REVIEW ITS POSITION, SEE WHERE MOVEMENT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, AND MEANWHILE COME UP WITH AN INTERIM AGREEMENT.

"BASICALLY, THE PROBLEM WAS ONE INVOLVING THE FISHERY RESOURCE. THE DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE AT A LOWER LEVEL THAN THE SPECIAL NEGOTIATORS. BOTH SIDES ARE REASSESSING THEIR POSITIONS. FRANKLY, I THINK THE NEGOTIATORS HAD MADE SO MUCH PROGRESS THAT IT WOULD BE TOO BAD IF THEIR EFFORTS WERE NOT SUSTAINED OVER A PERIOD OF TIME. I THINK THERE IS HOPE FOR AN AGREEMENT.

"CROUSE: MR. SPEAKER, THE MINISTER RATHER SKIRTED THE MAIN POINT OF MY QUESTION, WHICH I WILL PUT AGAIN.

"WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE TO THE MINISTER BY HIS CANADIAN ADVISERS CONCERNING THIS PROBLEM? DID THEY, OR DID THEY NOT, RECOMMEND THAT THE MINISTER AND THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD DEFINE WHERE THE LINE SHOULD BE DRAWN, AND TAKE THAT STAND? WHAT WERE THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTER BY HIS APPOINTED ADVISERS ON THIS MATTER?

"LEBLANC: MR. SPEAKER, IF WE HAD BACKED AWAY FROM OUR BASIC POSITION, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN AN AGREEMENT,  
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BUT OBVIOUSLY THAT TYPE OF AGREEMENT IS NOT SATISFACTORY TO US. WE WERE ATTEMPTING TO FIND A WAY AROUND THE DIFFICULTY REGARDING WHERE THE LINE SHOULD BE DRAWN, WHAT STOCKS OF FISH MOVE IN AND OUT OF THE CANADIAN AND AMERICAN ZONES, WHO SHOULD TAKE THEM, AND AT WHAT TIME. THE TALKS DID NOT END SUCCESSFULLY ON THESE ISSUES. THE FACT IS THAT THEY WERE RECESSED; THEY WERE NOT GIVEN UP. THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE HOPE THAT BOTH SIDES WILL ARRIVE AT AN ADVANTAGEOUS AGREEMENT OVER THE LONG TERM."  
ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

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